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END*

--52. The measurement apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the scale tensioner includes a preloadable member operable to urge the scale into tension and the tensioner includes scale end securements for securing the ends of the scale while the scale is in tension.--

REMARKS

Claims 31-52 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 11-30 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Also, claims 31-52 have been added. Support for added claims 31-52 can be found, at least, in page 2, lines 13-19 and page 7, lines 10-13.

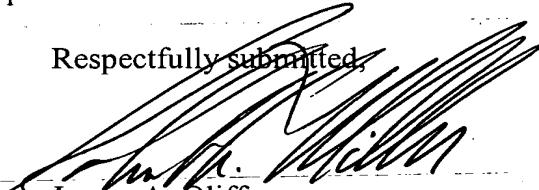
Applicants assert that none of the applied references, in particular Reilly, U.S. Patent No. 5,826,346, disclose or suggest a measurement apparatus wherein a magnetic attraction force between the scale and the track allows relative movement between the scale and the track, as recited in claim 31 and as similarly recited in claims 43 and 51.

In contrast to this invention, Reilly's magnet 62 serves to hold the ruler in place (col. 3, lines 61-62). Moreover, Reilly also teaches that as an additional means for retaining the ruler in its proper position in the slot 58, locking cams are also provided (col. 3, lines 62-63). Reilly does not disclose or suggest a magnetic force allowing relative movement between the ruler 60 and the gauge body 12. Applicants also assert that there is no justification for combining Reilly with any non-magnetic scale and readhead arrangement, as disclosed in the other applied references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks in this Amendment and the February 28 filed Amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 31-52 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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